

100th County Fair opens, and a good time is had by all

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WATSONVILLE — One day doesn't make a fair.

But if Tuesday's opening was any barometer, the 100th Santa Cruz County Fair may well be on its way to renewing its place as a county tradition during its six-day run.

The fair resumes today at noon at the East Lake Avenue fairgrounds.

"I actually think we have a better afternoon crowd," Fair Manager John Kegebein said. "It looks pretty good and everyone seems to be happy."

You couldn't find many fairgoers who would have disagreed. They liked what they saw.

"It's much better this year, and even the weather is good," said Ida Nevis, a senior from Scotts Valley who took advantage of the \$2 admission for Tuesday's Senior Day. Her friend Nita Magnabosco said: "All of the exhibits are so fresh. We like the flowers and the livestock, especially the 4H kids." They weren't alone.

People are getting an up close and personal view of some very intriguing collectibles, top-notch photographs, the best in the baked goods, a wide variety of colorfully designed quilts, and a host of school displays in the redesigned J.J. Crosetti building. Across Fiesta Lane in the Harvest Building, a towering statue clothed in apples oversees the exhibits where fairgoers are getting a lesson in Santa Cruz County agriculture dating back to the 1800s.

"We really changed these two buildings this year," said Fair Board President Loretta Estrada, a longtime participant in the fair. She credits the work of chairman Gloria Van Dieriendonck for creating a historical feeling to the baked, sewn and hand-crafted items on display in the Crosetti building and for attracting people to learn about the county's agriculture in the Harvest building.

What's impressive to Estrada this year are the number of entries in the various categories. "Entries

are definitely up, and in some divisions, almost double," she said.

Norm Hernandez, chairman of hobbies and collectibles, concurs. He had 105 entries, compared to 55

a year ago. You might want to catch the prize-winning collection of stuffed and ceramic koalas in a display case on the main aisle entered by Freedom's Karen Adair. Included are Adair's first koalas, given to her by her grandfather when she was a year old in 1962.

If you like hand-made quilts, you won't want to miss the work of Watsonville's Joanne Gray. She created the "best of show" quilt using a watercolor technique and a traditional nine block pattern.

The elaborate agriculture display focuses on what is grown in Santa Cruz County as well as neighboring Monterey and San Benito counties. Strawberries, apples and cut flowers were displayed as today's other main crops. The exhibits at Yesterday's Farm featuring vintage farm equipment from days past drew a good crowd. A 1930s threshing machine owned

by Morgan Hill's Frank Busch drew plenty of attention along with a Port Huron Longfellow high-pressure steam traction engine owned by Ken and Jeanie McCrary of Swanton. A couple of 1920-era Maytag washers brought back memories for some seniors. The All Alaskan racing pigs are back, and the Santa Cruz County Railroad Historical Society invited people to take a mini trip alongside model trains that depict railroads of the past and present in the county. In the livestock arena, there was 4H and Future Farmers of America judging in the lamb and sheep competition.

The annual Apple Pie Baking Contest drew a record number of pies. Almost 50 entries were brought in — twice the number as last year, according to contest organizers.

Four judges began their quest for the perfect pie in front of a

small-but intent audience of bakers, families and friends. New this year was a celebrity judge Chuck Williams, the founder of Williams-Sonoma stores, who donated pie cookbooks to all the winners.

It took just over two hours of concentrated eating to yield first-place winners in three classes; Junior (17 and under); Senior (18 and over); and Master (previous winners 18 and over).

After tasting at least 35 pies apiece, judges were faced with the top three contenders in each category to choose a "Best of Show." Yet more small slices were eaten, and the winner was picked unanimously.

Lindsay Pavlovich, age 8, baked

the best pie in this year's County Fair. Judges joked that it must run in the family, as mom Suke placed third in the Master division, and sister Kayce placed third in Juniors.

The top three winners in each category were: Juniors — Lindsay Pavlovich, Nathan Kasunich, Kayce Pavlovich; Seniors — Betty Carmichael, Susan Harty, Dana Warner; and Masters — Jeanette Robles, Charlot Titus, Suke Pavlovich.

Highlighting the fair schedule today will be entertainment by Daddy-O on the Amphitheater stage at 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. and the motorcycle races at the main grandstand at 7 p.m.



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FAIR

Today's schedule of events

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
12:15 p.m.	Dan Wiles juggling	Family Park
1:15 p.m.	David Zacarte	Family Park
2 p.m.	Grain threshing demonstration	Yesterday's Farm
2:15 p.m.	Dan Wiles juggling	Family Park
2:30 p.m.	All Alaskan racing pigs	Porker Downs
3:15 p.m.	David Zacarte ventriloquist	Family Park
4:15 p.m.	Dan Wiles juggling	Family Park
5 p.m.	All Alaskan racing pigs	Porker Downs
5:30 p.m.	Swine carcass judging	Main arena
5:45 p.m.	David Zacarte ventriloquist	Family Park
5:45 p.m.	Michael Mezmer hypnosis	Porker Downs
6 p.m.	Grain threshing demonstration	Yesterday's Farm
6:30 p.m.	Daddy-O	Amphitheater
7 p.m.	Team roping	Horse Arena
7 p.m.	Monterey Bay Dog Training	Family Park
7 p.m.	All Alaskan racing pigs	Porker Downs
7 p.m.	Flat track motorcycle racing	Grandstand
7:30 p.m.	Michael Mezmer hypnosis	Porker Downs
7:30 p.m.	Lamb lead	Main arena
8:30 p.m.	Daddy-O	Amphitheater
	Daily attractions	
1-5 p.m.	Big Momma Sue & Fast Eddie	Roving
3:30-6:30	Heather Pearl Stiltwalker	Roving
Evening	Milking demonstrations	